

Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 18-20 and 27-28 under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,775,005 to McClelland ("McClelland"). Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant submits all claims should be allowed over the cited art.

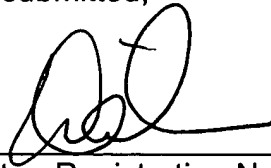
Claims 1-14, 16-22, 24, 25, and 27-29 require a plug be integrally connected to the footbed. McClelland does not disclose a plug being integrally connected to the footbed. Moreover, McClelland teaches away from such an integral connection (see Fig. 4) by having the footbed 22 separable from the plug 30. Therefore, given the lack of disclosure of an integrally connected plug and footbed, and the teachings away from Applicant's claimed invention, McClelland clearly does not disclose all limitations of Applicant's claims 1-14, 16-22, 24, 25, and 27-29. Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 USC § 102 be withdrawn and submits these claims should be allowed over McClelland.

New claims 30-31 require an opening extend from an inner surface of the outsole to an outer surface of the outsole, a plug extending downwardly from the footbed and placed within the opening, and a clearance defined by a volume between the bottom surface of the plug and the outer surface. As shown in all figures in McClelland,

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there is no clearance between the plug 30 and the outer surface of the outsole and,
therefore, these claims should also be allowed over McClelland.

Respectfully submitted,



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